

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 /084 W  
-----003785 140356Z /70

R 140258Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7669  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, GW, CZ  
SUBJECT: HUSAK VISIT TO FRG; JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND  
PRESS CONFERENCE

REFS: (A) BONN 6244; (B) BONN 6293

BEGIN SUMMARY: BOTH THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND THE  
SCHMIDT/HUSAK PRESS CONFERENCE OF APRIL 11 STRESSED  
THE DESIRE OF THE FRG AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO EXPAND AND  
INTENSIFY RELATIONS. NEITHER WENT BEYOND STANDARD  
FORMULATIONS ON EAST-WEST AND SECURITY ISSUES. END  
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SUMMARY.

1. IN THEIR JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE ON APRIL 11, SCHMIDT  
AND HUSAK EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE RESULTS OF  
THE CZECH LEADER'S VISIT TO THE FRG. HUSAK SAID HE  
HAD COME PRIMARILY TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES IN THE  
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL AREAS. HE SAID HIS

EXPECTATIONS HAD BEEN FULFILLED AND HE CHARACTERIZED HIS VISIT AS A STEP FORWARD. HUSAK CALLED UPON THE MEDIA OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVED RELATIONS THROUGH THEIR REPORTING.

2. RESPONDING TO HUSAK'S PREPARED STATEMENT, SCHMIDT ADDED THAT BOTH SIDES HAD EXPRESSED THEIR STRONG INTEREST IN A FURTHER REALIZATION OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT, DISARMAMENT AND DETENTE. SCHMIDT NOTED THAT THE ATTAINMENT OF LASTING DETENTE WAS LARGELY DEPENDENT ON GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE STATES OF CENTRAL EUROPE.

3. ASKED BY A REPORTER TO COMMENT ON THE KEY POINTS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, HUSAK EMPHASIZED THE MUTUAL DESIRE TO ACHIEVE BETTER RELATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHAT PROBLEMS STILL EXISTED IN THE RELATIONSHIP, SCHMIDT REPLIED THAT IT WAS A MATTER OF ACHIEVING FURTHER PROGRESS IN REALIZING THE CSCE FINAL ACT AND IN THE DISARMAMENT AREA. HE ALSO CALLED FOR THE EXPANSION OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS, I.E. THE CONCLUSION OF AN IMPLEMENTING PROTOCOL.

4. ASKED BY A DUTCH JOURNALIST ABOUT PERSECUTION OF POLITICAL OPPONENTS (GEORG SZABATA WAS NAMED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIFICALLY), HUSAK REPLIED, "SZABATA IS FREE, HE CONTINUES HIS OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION AGAINST US, HE VIOLATES THE LAWS OF OUR STATE. DESPITE THIS HE IS A FREE MAN. HE SERVED TIME IN PRISON SOME 5 OR 6 YEARS AGO BECAUSE OF HIS VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE LAW IN CONNECTION WITH CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN ELEMENTS. I GRANTED HIM AMNESTY AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY AND HE HAS BEEN FREE SINCE THEN... THERE ARE VERY FEW OF WHAT YOU WOULD CALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THEY ARE NOT IN PRISON BECAUSE OF THEIR VIEWS BUT RATHER BECAUSE OF CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT THEY VIOLATED OUR LAWS."

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT TRADE RELATIONS, SCHMIDT SUGGESTED THAT CZECHOSLOVAK ENTREPRENEURS BE MORE FLEXIBLE AND DO MORE MARKET RESEARCH IN GERMANY. HE NOTED THAT THE TRADE DEFICIT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD BEEN REDUCED SOMEWHAT AND SAID THE FRG WAS INTERESTED IN ACHIEVING BALANCED TRADE. HE SAID NO LARGE ECONOMIC PROJECTS HAD BEEN AGREED UPON AND THAT IMPROVEMENT IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WOULD BE ON THE BASIS OF SLOW, CONCRETE STEPS.

6. THE 13-PAGE JOINT DECLARATION IS A DETAILED DOCUMENT WHICH STRESSES THE NEED TO INTENSIFY AND EXPAND BILATERAL CONTACTS AND COOPERATION AT ALL LEVELS. THE EMPHASIS IS CLEARLY ON INSTITUTIONAL

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RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS. IN ONE OF THE FEW CONCRETE MEASURES ANNOUNCED, THE COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT THE CZECH AND GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE AGREED TO ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS.

7. THE COMMUNIQUE CALLS FOR AN INTENSIFICATION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND CLOSER EQUILIBRIUM IN TRADE AND PAYMENTS BALANCES. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED INTEREST IN

EXPANDED COOPERATION IN JOINT VENTURES AND IN THIRD  
MARKETS. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORK OF THE JOINT  
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION WAS NOTED AND IT WAS AGREED TO  
UPGRADE REPRESENTATION TO MINISTER LEVEL. THE TWO  
SIDES ALSO ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO CONCLUDE A  
DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT.

8. THE STANDARD EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL  
ISSUES CENTERED ON DETENTE AND SECURITY AND  
COOPERATION IN EUROPE. THE COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS THE  
USUAL FORMULATIONS CONCERNING BOTH PARTIES' DESIRE  
TO: FOSTER DETENTE, FURTHER  
REALIZE THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, AND REACH EFFECTIVE  
DISARMAMENT MEASURES. IT ALSO CONTAINS THE STANDARD  
TEXT ON THE "STRICT OBSERVANCE AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE QA." THE TWO SIDES ALSO AGREED TO TAKE THE  
NECESSARY STEPS TO PREVENT AND RESOLVE BORDER  
INCIDENTS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, SOPN, GE, CZ, (HUSAK, GUSTAV)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014